

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE ANDREWS BAND DIRECTOR AND BUS DRIVER

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the families of Darin Johns and Marc Boswell, who were tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Darin Johns was the beloved band director for Andrews High School. In the weeks since the accident, we have seen an outpouring of testimonies about Mr. Johns from former students, friends, colleagues, and other band directors across the entire state of Texas.

As I learn more about the life that Mr. Johns led, I am continually encouraged by the quality of service that he gave to his community and the quantity of people whose lives he touched.

Mr. Johns was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith, loved his wife Karen and family and friends deeply, and invested in his natural talent and deep love of music. He was a gifted musician who could play almost any instrument he touched. In his free time, he played in a Christian band and directed the church praise band as an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johns deepest passion was encouraging the younger generations. For over 30 years, he taught others to love music as a high school band director. Over his impressive tenure, Mr. Johns led three different high school marching bands to the State Marching Contest. He lent all his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

I also want to recognize Marc Boswell, a humble and beloved Andrews public servant, who also tragically passed away in the bus crash.

Marc devoted his life to Andrews—as a high school math teacher, employee of the Andrews school district, involved community leader, and beloved friend, father, husband, and son. After retiring, Mr. Boswell stayed busy running stats for the Andrews football team, timing the swim team meets, and driving buses for Andrews ISD sports and extracurricular activities.

He was known for his servant heart, incredible work ethic, infectious smiles, and deep love for his wife Carol and his children and grandchildren.

Andrews ISD and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of these two incredible men.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews, to the families of Mr. Johns and Mr. Boswell, as well as the loved ones of Nathan Haile, who was also killed in the crash.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE AWARENESS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the current mental health crisis.

My home state of Arkansas has one of the highest proportions of individuals with trauma and PTSD in the nation. The COVID crisis has increased the mental health needs of Arkansans and all Americans.

Last year in Arkansas we tragically lost 583 of our neighbors, friends, and family members to suicide. Many personally know the pain of what it is like to lose a person to suicide.

Suicide rates in Arkansas are above the American average. Simultaneously, Arkansas also has a higher rate of adults with mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression.

There are more resources now than ever to provide support for anyone who needs it. I am proud to have supported funding for these resources earlier this Congress, including funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Mental health can be a tough topic to speak about, but it shouldn't be.

HONORING LEROY WARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant, Mr. Leroy Ware.

Leroy Ware is the youngest of eleven children, born April 14, 1954 to Mr. Granville and Mrs. Myrtle Ware in the Browning Community. Leroy attended and graduated from Amanda Elzy High School. He was an honor student while still participating in the football program at school and helping the family cultivate and harvest crops.

After graduating from high school, Leroy attended Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi, and studied Business Administration. He participated in the Co-Op Program at Mississippi Valley State University and was assigned to Warner Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. There, he trained to be a systems analyst. Leroy was later employed by the first African American Tax Assessor/Collector of Leflore County.

Leroy worked as a deputy assessor from 1985 until 1999. He then, successfully vied for and won the elected title of Tax Assessor in 1999. He still competently holds that position.

Leroy is married to Mrs. Earlean Davidson Ware. They have three children, Stephanie Davidson, Stephen Davidson, and Krystal

Austin. Leroy has lived by the lessons taught to him by his father: "Family is everything; You don't fight family; and, Always be there to lend a helping hand."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Leroy Ware for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSIONER ANDY KOSTIELNEY FOR HIS SERVICE TO HOOSIERS

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph County Commissioner Andy Kostielney for his outstanding service to Hoosiers in our community and beyond as he prepares to retire in 2022. For more than a decade, Commissioner Kostielney has been a dedicated, savvy, and servant-hearted leader.

As the District 1 Commissioner, he represents northern St. Joseph County, including Granger, all of Clay, German and Harris townships and parts of the far-north sides of South Bend and Mishawaka.

Throughout his tenure, Commissioner Kostielney—who currently serves as President of the Board of Commissioners—has worked tirelessly to deliver results for St. Joseph County Hoosiers. Since taking office in 2009, he has developed expertise on the issues that matter most to our community—creating jobs, stewarding resources, and building a brighter future for St. Joseph County.

Among his many achievements, Commissioner Kostielney spearheaded the South Shore double tracking project that will make it easier for those who work in the Chicago area to join our community and make a home in Indiana. He also has developed key public-private partnerships, including with the University of Notre Dame, to drive results for Hoosier families.

A lifelong Hoosier, Commissioner Kostielney has deep roots in this region. This is where he and his wife, Joy, have raised their beautiful family and served as active community members. In addition to his official duties in St. Joseph County, Commissioner Kostielney also serves as Assistant Manager of the Robinson Community Learning Center at the University of Notre Dame.

Previously, he served on the St. Joseph County Council from 2003 through 2006. As he prepares to retire, Commissioner Kostielney leaves an outstanding legacy that has contributed to the overall development, growth and modernization of St. Joseph County.

On behalf of the 2nd District of Indiana, it is my privilege to honor Commissioner Andy Kostielney and thank him for his years of service to our community. I am proud to call Commissioner Kostielney a dear friend, and I am

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

grateful for his longstanding partnership in serving the people of St. Joseph County. As he and his family embark on a new chapter, I wish them continued good health and happiness.

**HONORING ANTHONY GALAGAZA
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE BA-
KERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield Fire Department Chief Anthony Galagaza on his retirement from the Bakersfield Fire Department after 30 years of public service to our community.

Anthony's career as a first responder and exposure to firefighting began when he accepted a summer position in 1989 as a seasonal firefighter for the United States Bureau of Land Management. Captivated by the field, Anthony decided to take his talents to the Bakersfield Fire Department, where he would complete over 30 years of service. Indicative of his knowledge of public safety and passion for helping others in times of crisis, Anthony quickly climbed the ladder within the Department. In 1990, Anthony started out as a reserve firefighter and in 1992 became a full-time firefighter. In 2013, Anthony was promoted to Fire Battalion Chief after serving as a fire engineer and Fire Captain. Five years later, Anthony was tapped to become the Fire Chief, overseeing the Department's fleet of personnel, fire stations, and various divisions.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, Anthony has transformed the Department to ensure it had the staff and resources necessary to tackle the challenges of the next decade. Some of his major achievements include significantly increasing the number of rescue squads and arson personnel in the Department, advancing health and wellness programs for Department staff and firefighters, and fostering public trust in the community. The emphasis on public trust and outreach helped the Bakersfield Fire Department maintain its elite status among fire departments as a recipient of a class two rating by the Insurance Services Office, which assesses the ability of a fire department to respond effectively to fires in its area of responsibility. This high rating indicates the effectiveness of the Bakersfield Fire Department and is a testament to Anthony's effective leadership as the Fire Chief.

Anthony's investment in, and passion for, keeping the people of Bakersfield safe is without question. That is why, in August 2021, as House Republican Leader, I had the privilege to appoint him to the Medal of Valor Review Board, which reviews individuals to be awarded the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor—the highest national award for valor a public safety officer can receive—and make recommendations to the White House.

Throughout his career, Anthony has dedicated himself to serving others, building trust in the city, and ensuring the safety and security of homes, schools, and workplaces in our community. He has been integral in highlighting the value of our firefighting and dispatch personnel and will be missed by the Ba-

kersfield Fire Department, which he has referred to as his second family. On behalf of the people of Bakersfield and the 23rd Congressional District of California, I would like to thank Anthony for his decades of service to our community and I wish him and his family the very best as he starts this next chapter of his life.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the global competition for ideas between the community of democracies and the People's Republic of China (PRC) is nowhere more apparent than in Kazakhstan, where the PRC has steadily increased its influence in the country since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The PRC wants Kazakh oil, cheap Kazakh labor, and most importantly, Kazakh government help silencing predominantly-Muslim Central Asian peoples, whose reports of genocide on their kinsmen in Xinjiang are inconvenient and embarrassing to the PRC.

While pursuing their goals in Kazakhstan, the PRC pushes its authoritarian governance model, a growing contempt for human rights, and assistance with mass surveillance tools. And too many Kazakh leaders have proven to be all-too-willing accomplices.

Perhaps most troubling is the PRC's pressure on Kazakhstan to keep Kazakhs, Uyghurs, Kyrgyz and other Central Asians silent about the genocide and other gross violations of human rights in Xinjiang. On July 13, 2021, Gulzira Auelkhan, an ethnic Kazakh from the PRC who had emigrated to Kazakhstan but returned to China, gave heart-breaking testimony at the hearing I chaired at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission about her experience as a survivor of China's concentration camps.

Ms. Auelkhan testified that while she was in the camp, Chinese authorities subjected her to physical, mental, and spiritual torture. One particularly disturbing story was that Chinese authorities inserted needles under her fingernails for attempting to cheat on a Chinese language exam. She also testified that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) runs a forced prostitution system inside these camps, where Chinese men routinely rape the female prisoners.

While Chinese authorities released her due to pressure from a Radio Free Asia story that revealed her plight, Gulzira's troubles only increased upon her return to Kazakhstan. Instead of sympathy, Kazakh officials intimidated her, and pressured her family to stop speaking out about the horrors she experienced in Xinjiang. Her refusal to stay silent resulted in her having to flee to the United States in search of a place where she could speak freely about the Chinese concentration camps, and how Kazakhstan rejected her.

The fact that Kazakhstan enables China's genocide in Xinjiang arises from Kazakhstan's dependence upon PRC's massive monetary investments, including in the Belt and Road Initiative, and the malfeasance of kleptocratic Kazakh officials.

Some of these corrupt officials reportedly have ties with the Eurasian Natural Resources

Corporation (ENRC), a Kazakh-based company that three billionaire Kazakh businessmen and the Kazakh government founded. ENRC shares ties with members of the former president's family, particularly Timur Kulibayev, who was part of a questionable pipeline deal brokered with Chinese entities. The company has also been investigated by the UK's Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

Sadly the record of gross human rights violations by government officials acting with impunity is not new in Kazakhstan. In 2012, at a hearing I chaired, entitled: "Kazakhstan: As Stable As It's Government Claims?", our witnesses provided expert testimony questioning the stability of the country and exposing statewide corruption and massive human rights abuses sanctioned by the Kazakhstan government—including torture and abuse by government security forces.

At the time, the government of Kazakhstan was headed by the former authoritarian "President for Life" Nazarbayev, who ruled with an iron fist, snuffing out dissent and fighting hard to obscure the serious human rights and democracy deficiencies that marked his reign.

Today, unfortunately, his oldest daughter, Dariga Nazarbayeva reportedly carries on the family legacy of corruption as a member of the Kazakh Congress.

According to the Eurasia Democracy Initiative, Dariga Nazarbayeva used an illegal passport to open multiple Austrian bank accounts containing millions of dollars, tapping her position and her father's to launder ill-gotten wealth out of the country. A Times of London article recently revealed that she and her son owned over £140 million of property, including the fictional home of Sherlock Holmes, located on 221b Baker Street.

There is little hope that these oligarchs, rich with money stolen from their own people with the assistance the genocidal foreign regime of the PRC, will even-handedly administer justice or respect human rights when they so readily abuse the rule of law, jeopardizing the rights and security of their fellow Kazakh citizens at the apparent behest of the CCP and for their own financial interests.

The Biden Administration must engage the government of Kazakhstan more forcefully, including the use of sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing the Biden Administration to elevate and combat the human rights abuses in Kazakhstan, address corruption in this strategic part of the world, and do everything it can to counter the CCP's baneful influence in Kazakhstan.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDAL
S. MACDONALD**

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Randal (Randy) S. MacDonald, who died unexpectedly on October 6, 2021. Randy is deserving of recognition for his life-long commitment to protecting our environment, and his passionate efforts to educate and inspire action to address the existential crisis of climate change.

Randy was born in Alameda, California and was raised in a family that valued the importance of environmental activism. From a young age, he was passionate about politics, the environment, and social justice. Randy went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from University of Oregon, in 1990, with a degree in Political Science.

While in Oregon, Randy was an elected City Councilor in Eugene, Oregon, and worked as Director of Legislative and Community Affairs at University of Oregon. He is remembered there for his leadership in successful efforts to restore state funding for public higher education, and for winning voter approval of funding to build and improve local fire department facilities.

Randy returned home to California in 2000, settling in scenic Comptche, California, in the heart of Mendocino County. Always a steward of the environment, Randy planted 2,800 redwoods on his 50 acres to aid its return to the natural conifer forest it once was. He served on many committees and boards of groups fighting for action on climate change, including as Chair of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club's Climate and Energy Committee. In his professional work, he served as partner/owner and COO of a successful online business offering continuing education for health care professionals.

Randy's community service was both deep and broad. Randy advocated in Washington, D.C. for all rural communities to have high speed internet connectivity, and he succeeded in bringing this to Comptche in 2009. He was an active volunteer with the Comptche Volunteer Fire Department for twenty years, still holding the position of Safety Officer at the time of his death.

Randy is survived by his wife Janis, stepson Jonathan, father James and his wife Carol, siblings Charlotte, Gail, and Mark, stepbrother Rande, and stepfather Ed, five nieces, and one nephew.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Randy's family and many friends, and in expressing our deep appreciation for Randy's extraordinary dedication throughout his life to the betterment of our natural environment and the broader community.

HONORING ADEOLA "ABRAHAM"
OLAGBEGI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Adeola "Abraham" Olagbegi from Jackson, Mississippi.

After a successful bone marrow transplant in November 2020, Adeola Olagbegi was given a chance to Make-A-Wish. Instead of wanting something a typical 13-year-old fighting cancer may ask for, he used his wish to start something bigger than himself.

Mr. Olagbegi chose to use his wish to feed the homeless for a year in his hometown, Jackson, MS. Before being diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, a rare and life-threatening blood disorder, Mr. Olagbegi and his family looked forward to feeding the homeless every

third Saturday in every month. This service to the community is known as "Abraham's Table." "It was always a good thing to do, and that's what I grew up doing that, so I go back to my roots to do what I was taught to do."

"I am a person of hope, so when you come against a big mountain, you have to remember you have a big God." Mr. Olagbegi is a living testimony that if you pour out good unto God's people, God will turn around and bless you beyond measure.

After 10 months of "Abraham's Table", Mr. Olagbegi hopes to turn his wish into a non-profit organization that will continue to impact the City of Jackson for the better. Since the beginning of Abraham's Table, Mr. Olagbegi has fed over hundreds of homeless citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Adeola "Abraham" Olagbegi for his dedication to serve the homeless for years to come.

COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP
OF DAN FINCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commending the leadership of Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association Vice President of Advocacy, upon his retirement after 39 years of exemplary work on behalf of patient care and the physician practice of medicine.

Daniel "Dan" Thomas Finch was born on November 16, 1952, reared on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., the eldest of seven children, and the son of a Navy veteran. He moved to Texas in 1982, to work for the Harris County Medical Society before heading to Austin in 2006 to join the public affairs advocacy team of the Texas Medical Association.

Dan's commitment to hard work and serving others began early in life in Catholic school as an altar boy and later with his first job out of University of North Carolina as a bus driver. These early life experiences molded Dan's leadership, communication, and navigation skills which serendipitously led him into a medical association communications position with the North Carolina Medical Society, and then a brief stint with the American Medical Association in Chicago, before heading to Houston where he began a 24-year stint with the Harris County Medical Society, and eventually to Austin where he has served the past 15 years with the Texas Medical Association.

Dan's rapid trajectory and success professionally in the field of medical association communications and advocacy was matched only by his private life as a Renaissance man who developed keen interests as a guitarist, singer, photographer, golfer, motorcycle enthusiast, world traveler, cigar aficionado, Astros baseball fan, home gardener, and outdoor grill master.

Dan has been equally well grounded as a dedicated husband to his loving wife, Becky, for the past 41 years, as a caring father to their daughter, Liz, and son, Nate, and as the loving "Pops" to all of his grandchildren. He has offered his many talents to the community, including being a member of his church band in Houston which performed every Sunday in their Hawaiian shirts. His respect

among his working peers, his dedicated service to the more than 53,000 member physicians in the Texas Medical Association, and his public affairs accomplishments in both the Texas Legislature and in Congress led to his ascension as Vice President of Advocacy for the Texas Medical Association.

Texas is a better and healthier State in part to Dan's steadfast commitment to the highest standards and quality of patient care in Texas, protections for physician autonomy in caring for their patients, common sense health insurance reforms which put patients before insurance profits, and medical liability protections which prevent lawsuit abuse.

Dan's most memorable advice to his younger colleagues was, "A doctor long ago told me if we do what's right for patients, we'll do what's right for physicians, and that's always been my guiding light."

Dan and Becky are now replacing the rolling Texas Hill Country of Austin with a retirement home closer to their grandkids in the rolling hills of Manhattan, Kansas (which is much preferable to that other Manhattan).

I ask that my fellow Members join me in saluting the life, work, and accomplishments of Daniel "Dan" Thomas Finch, on behalf of the Texas Medical Association, for a healthier Nation. I am humbled to formally declare Dan a "great American" who has earned his retirement spurs and a "great Texan" (even if he's not in Texas anymore).

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHERYL CATES

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Key West's former First Lady, Cheryl Cates. Her outstanding public service to the Florida Keys and South Florida and unwavering sense of conviction earned her the respect and admiration from those who knew her and anyone she crossed paths with.

Cheryl led an incredible life full of perseverance and devotion. She was selfless and dedicated to our community having served on several boards and committees. In 2012, Cheryl was awarded the Community Service Award of Excellence for her committed decade of service to Zonta, an organization dedicated to empowering women through service and advocacy. Additionally, she was awarded the Key West Business Guild's Presidential Award and the Key West Star Award from the Chamber of Commerce for her grand contributions over the years.

Cheryl's tremendous service over the years was exemplary. Her legacy is a testament of what it means to be selfless and noble. Her ongoing support and encouragement for local non-profits fostered great awareness in the Keys. Cheryl served as the First Lady of Key West for more than a decade, representing city leadership at hundreds of events throughout former Mayor Craig Cates' time in office.

A woman of dignity and integrity, Cheryl Cates will be remembered for her lifelong charitable contributions to Key West and her dedication to public service. It was a pleasure knowing her. She will be profoundly missed.

May God bless Cheryl Cates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 373; NAY on Roll Call No. 374; YEA on Roll Call No. 375; YEA on Roll Call No. 376; NAY on Roll Call No. 377; NAY on Roll Call No. 378; NAY on Roll Call No. 379; YEA on Roll Call No. 380; NAY on Roll Call No. 381; NAY on Roll Call No. 382; NAY on Roll Call No. 383; YEA on Roll Call No. 384; NAY on Roll Call No. 385; and NAY on Roll Call No. 386.

HONORING MICHAEL R. MELILLO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to Michael Melillo, of Niles, who passed away on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at the Cleveland Clinic. He was 64 years old.

He was born April 6, 1957, in Warren, the son of Ray and Jean Walden Melillo. Mike was a 1975 graduate of Niles McKinley High School and owned and operated Men's Union Barbershop as well as the adjoining beauty shop, Hair Design by Michael. Mike deeply loved the city of Niles, and he was a beloved fixture of the community. For the last almost 40 years, he could be found daily at his Robbins Avenue barbershop—an establishment built by Mike's immigrant grandfather, Phillip Melillo in the 1930s.

He was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Parish in Niles and was a proud Italian-American. His world revolved around his family and nothing pleased him more than to be surrounded by his adorable grandkids.

Mike led a very active and healthy lifestyle. Beyond daily fitness, Mike enjoyed golfing, swimming, running and playing bocce. He loved basketball and was known for his sharp jumpshot all the way up until he quit playing in his late 50s. Many of Mike's days were spent coaching his children's youth sports teams and eventually attending his grandchildren's games. Mike restarted the Mount Carmel grade-school basketball program with Stu Sussman in 1999, where his teams were exceptionally successful in both winning games and building life-long loving friendships. Family traditions were important to Mike. In the summer, he could be found tending his garden and, in the fall, crushing grapes in the wine cellar. Mike was also a Niles Frontliner who had a reverence for the proud Red Dragon Football program.

Mike meant the world to his loved ones and served as the guiding star for his wife and children. He will be gravely missed by his father of Niles; his wife, Gerri Gatta Melillo; a son, Vincent Melillo and his wife, Christina of Dublin, Ohio; two daughters, Michelle Spano

and her husband, Randy of Canfield and Rose Allison Johnson and her husband, Chaz of Niles; a brother, Raymond T. Melillo and his wife, Pam of Poland; three sisters, Vickie Janik and her husband, Ed of Niles, Monica Melillo and her fiancé, Bill Hensley of Painesville and Gwen Maynard of Youngstown; seven grandchildren, Chaz, Enzo, Nico, Mia, Carmela, Capri and Michael; and a little girl due in June (Vince and Christi). He was preceded in death by his mother.

A friend to so many, Mike had a one-of-a-kind sense of humor. He had a knack for building profound relationships and leaving a positive impact on people's lives. While his presence will be most painfully missed by both his family and community, his influence will be everlasting.

HONORING KNOXVILLE CHIEF OF POLICE EVE THOMAS' RETIREMENT

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Knoxville Police Chief Eve Thomas, who recently announced her retirement after nearly 30 years in law enforcement.

Chief Thomas joined the Knoxville Police Department in 1993. She served in many capacities, including as a Patrol Officer, Problem Solving Instructor, Field Training Officer, and a Domestic Violence/Terrorism Instructor at Walters State Community College.

In 1998, she was promoted to Sergeant and served as an Accreditation Manager, Patrol Sergeant, and Personnel Sergeant.

Chief Thomas was promoted again in 2005 to the rank of Lieutenant. With this promotion, she assumed administrative responsibilities of KPD's specialty units, including the Crisis Negotiation Unit, Special Operations Squad, K9 Unit, and several others. She was critical to all these units' operations and, as a result of her reliable performance, Chief Thomas was given additional responsibilities as Patrol Lieutenant, Central Business District Supervisor, and Traffic Services Supervisor.

In 2011, Chief Thomas achieved the rank of Captain and gained supervision of KPD's Support Services Division.

In 2013, she was assigned to the Patrol Division as East District Commander, and then served as Commander of the Department's Internal Affairs Unit and the Criminal Investigations Division.

In February 2018, Chief Thomas was promoted to Deputy Chief over the Criminal Investigation Division. Four months later, she became the 26th Chief of Police and the first woman to hold the top position at the Knoxville Police Department. She has served in this position ever since.

Chief Thomas dedicated her career to protecting the people of Knoxville. I thank Chief Thomas for her service. I wish her the very best in her retirement.

ARKANSAS CODING ACADEMY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arkansas Coding Academy on their 5-year anniversary.

Since its foundation in 2016, the Arkansas Coding Academy has provided roughly 300 students with the tools and resources needed to succeed in the rapidly growing tech industry and programing opportunities across central Arkansas.

Individual courses typically last only four weeks, and the curriculum as a whole is typically completed in six to nine months.

Their annual Demo Day provided students with the opportunity to show off their final projects while also having the opportunity to be recruited by hiring managers.

The Arkansas Coding Academy develops skilled workers, and I am proud to have such an outstanding program in central Arkansas.

HONORING MARC BOSWELL

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the family of Marc Boswell, who was tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Marc Boswell was a humble and beloved Andrews public servant, who tragically passed away in the bus crash.

Marc devoted his life to Andrews—as a high school math teacher, employee of the Andrews school district, involved community leader, and beloved friend, father, husband, and son. After retiring, Mr. Boswell stayed busy running stats for the Andrews football team, timing the swim team meets, and driving buses for Andrews ISO sports and extra-curricular activities.

He was known for his servant heart, incredible work ethic, infectious smiles, and deep love for his wife Carol and his children and grandchildren.

Andrews ISO and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of Mr. Boswell.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews and to Mr. Boswell's family.

HONORING ROSETTA MILLER-PERRY AND THE TENNESSEE TRIBUNE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor The Tennessee Tribune, one of Tennessee's most influential publications, and Rosetta Miller-Perry, who is the paper's founder, publisher, and CEO.

Thirty years ago, Rosetta took a business risk to launch The Tribune in order to raise awareness of, and address issues facing, Black families. The Tennessee Tribune has become the state's largest minority weekly newspaper, fearlessly speaking truth to power and highlighting stories too often ignored by other publishers.

From joining the United States Navy to working alongside civil rights leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Z. Alexander Looby, Rosetta has always been an advocate for good on the right side of history. Before founding The Tennessee Tribune, she worked at the United States Civil Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After arriving in Nashville, Rosetta founded the city's Black Chamber of Commerce, which is still the preeminent resource for African American businesses in the area. It's no surprise that Rosetta is known to many as the Queen of Jefferson Street, the historic center of Nashville's African American community.

Rosetta's lifetime of accomplishments is documented in HistoryMakers, an oral history collection of prominent African Americans. In 2019, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Newspaper Publishers Association for her work with The Tribune.

The Tennessee Tribune's work is multi-dimensional. It has two stores in the Nashville International Airport so that most visitors to our state will see the importance and power that diversity has made in shaping our growing region. This progress would not have been possible without Rosetta and The Tribune.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of The Tennessee Tribune and Rosetta's dedication to championing the cause of civil rights and leadership of African Americans. Rosetta always makes our city, state, and country better, and I am honored to call her a friend. I look forward to The Tribune's next thirty years and many more decades after that.

CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. CHARLES TEAMER, SR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize Dr. Charles C. Teamer, Sr. of New Orleans, Louisiana, a civic leader and accomplished banker in my district. He has been a role model, an educator, a businessman, and an inspirational mentor to myself and so many others over the years.

Born on May 20, 1933 in Shelby, North Carolina, he received his B.S. degree from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958, and later received his M.A. degree from the University of Nebraska and his Ph.D. degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Teamer has worked as a business manager at several colleges and universities, ultimately becoming the vice president of finance at Dillard University and was promoted to chief financial officer in 1968. In 1983, he was appointed by Governor David Treen as the first African American Commissioner for the Port of New Orleans.

Dr. Teamer has been a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for 70 years and is a current member of the Sigma Lambda chapter. From 1985 to 1988 he served as the Fraternity's 27th general president. He is also a longtime member and former Grand Sire Archon of the Sigma Pi Phi.

Dr. Teamer was co-founder and chairman of Dryades Savings Bank. After retiring from Dillard University, Teamer led an investment partnership to open The Cotton Exchange and Holiday Inn Express Hotel in downtown New Orleans. He also served as president of the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

From serving as executive director of the Amistad Research Center and a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, Dr. Teamer has also held numerous board appointments. These included the Board of Education of the United Methodist Church, the National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers, the Ford Foundation, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Ochsner Medical Foundations, the Audubon Institute, and the Common Fund. He also served as chairman for the Urban League of Greater New Orleans, Harrah's New Orleans Casino, the Metropolitan Area Committee, the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the United Way.

Dr. Teamer was a member of the business and higher-education council for the University of New Orleans as well as served on the board of the Southern Education Foundation. This do-it-all man was also president of fiscal affairs at Dillard University and Clark Atlanta University and president of the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers. He served on the board of supervisors for the University of Louisiana System and for Tulane University. Dr. Teamer also had tenure as the Entergy New Orleans director.

As you can see, Dr. Charles C. Teamer, Sr. is a busy man, and I am grateful that our paths have crossed so many times throughout his illustrious career. I want to express my thanks to him and his family, Linda Phoenix Teamer, Charles Jr., Roderick, and the late Mary and Cheryl Teamer, for all of the time and energy he has given to New Orleans. Dr. Teamer has given so much to the community he loves and has lifted up all boats with him as he achieved success. The entire state of Louisiana is grateful for his longtime work and service.

HONORING DR. MAXINE O'DELL GERNERT

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Maxine O'Dell Gernert of Athens, Tennessee and recognize a lifetime of service to her community and our nation. Dr. Gernert retires from my Congressional staff today.

Dr. Gernert obtained a BS in Education from the University of Tennessee and subsequently earned a Masters of Divinity from the Church of God School of Theology and a Doctorate of Ministries from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Dr. Gernert is an ordained minister, has taught at Lee University, and has spoken internationally for chaplain training. She performed Clinical Pastoral Education training in hospitals and was interim director and chaplain for the Serenity Women's Shelter in Knoxville, TN.

Maxine has been married to Dr. John N. Gernert for over 50 years, and the two have three children and seven grandchildren.

Maxine has been a pillar of public life in East Tennessee for over 30 years. She served as the Area 2 President for the National Federation of Republican Women and as Chairman for the McMinn County Republican Party for two terms.

Dr. Gernert was recognized as the Tennessee GOP Stateman of the Year for District 2 in 2005 and received the Lincoln Award from the McMinn County Republican Party in 2016. She was awarded the Extraordinary Leaders prize from the American Association of Physician Specialties in 2017.

For the past twelve years, Maxine has worked as Field Representative, first in Tennessee's Second Congressional District for Congressman Jimmy Duncan, and since 2013 on my staff in Tennessee's Third Congressional District. In this role, she has tirelessly served our great East Tennessee community helping countless individuals by providing constituent services.

Dr. Maxine Gernert has been an asset to East Tennessee and to me. Always positive and assertive, she has had a tremendous impact on all those fortunate enough to know her. I will treasure my time spent with Maxine and know we will continue to cross paths in the many ways she remains engaged in our communities. I wish her all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

God bless Maxine.

COMMEMORATING THE TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition as it commemorates the 80th anniversary of the opening of the detention station located in Tujunga, California. I commend the organization's tireless efforts to preserve and document the historical site and the stories of the lives that were forever changed while they were detained at the Tuna Canyon Detention Station (TCDS) during World War II.

At the onset of World War II, Presidential Proclamations 2525, 2526, and 2527 authorized the arrest and imprisonment of people deemed a threat to U.S. national security. The proclamations served as justification to arrest individuals of Japanese, German, and Italian ancestry along with extradited Japanese Peruvians and detain them without due process.

The U.S. Department of Justice subsequently appropriated a Civilian Conservation Corps camp a week after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 which they would then transform into the detention station that we know today as TCDS. From December 16, 1941 to October 30, 1943, the Tuna Canyon Detention Station imprisoned over

2,000 individuals. These individuals included prominent businessmen, martial arts teachers, civic and religious leaders.

Today, the TCDS Coalition serves to educate the public about the site's historical significance, preserve the site and historic artifacts, and seek out the names and stories of detainees. I applaud the diligence of the TCDS Board of Directors and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to document biographies of TCDS detainees. Additionally, TCDS Coalition was the driving force behind the Los Angeles City Council recognizing the Tuna Canyon Detention Station as a Historic Cultural Monument on June 25, 2013.

With only the oak trees left standing, it's vital for present and future generations to be informed of these wartime atrocities to ensure that the same actions never take place again. It is my pleasure to congratulate the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition on all they have accomplished, and I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROLAND EUGENE DULLNIG

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of World War II veteran, Roland Eugene Dullnig, who hails from my hometown of San Antonio, Texas. Today marks Mr. Dullnig's 100th birthday. I am honored to recognize his milestone on this joyous day.

Roland Eugene Dullnig was born in San Antonio, Texas, on December 3, 1921. The eldest of three children, Mr. Dullnig graduated from Fox Tech High School whereafter he enlisted in U.S. Army Air Corp in 1942. Mr. Dullnig served as a Crew Chief with the 668th Squadron of the 416th Bombardment Group maintaining the A20 and the A26 light bomber aircraft. His 416th Bombardment Group participated in the battles of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Air Offensive Europe. Mr. Dullnig continued to serve until the end of the war, being discharged as a Technical Sergeant in January 1946.

Upon completion of military service, Mr. Dullnig returned to San Antonio and worked in the printing trade for 40 years. He was married to his wife, Evelyn, for almost 69 years having two children, Carolyn, and Ron. In February 2020, Mr. Dullnig was presented with the French Legion of Honor Medal given by the people of France to American Veterans who fought for the liberation of France during World War II. Today, Mr. Dullnig continues to reside in the family home in San Antonio.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing World War II veteran, Mr. Roland Dullnig, on his 100th birthday. I thank Mr. Dullnig for his many years of service to our country and community. It is my hope that he is surrounded by loved ones on his special day.

HONORING HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT BABETTE HUITT AND UNSUNG HERO AWARD RECIPIENT LINDA BROWN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Babette Huitt for her recognition as Hospitality Professional of the Year and Linda Brown for her recognition as Unsung Hero by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCCVB).

The Hospitality Professional of the Year Award is presented to an individual who contributes exceptional leadership and commitment to the hospitality industry. As Tours and STEAM Program Manager for CCCVB, Babette Huitt exhibited outstanding leadership and commitment to the industry by redesigning the Speedway Tour program to accommodate important COVID-19 Safety Protocols, and she provided necessary oversight to see the Bureau's STEAM program implemented in at-home and remote environments at both Fort Bragg and Camp LeJeune.

The Unsung Hero Award is presented by CCCVB to an individual who conducts indispensable duties behind the scenes to assure high-quality guest services. As a laundry attendant within the Housekeeping Department at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, North Carolina, Linda Brown has performed outstanding leadership and teamwork to see her duties executed acutely and efficiently. When she has time, she goes the extra mile to assist other attendants with their own tasks. Perhaps most impressively, Ms. Brown refuses to let her hearing deficiency inhibit her ability to work and has taught coworkers hand signals and sign language to assure coherent communication.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Huitt and Ms. Brown for their exemplary service to the hospitality industry in Cabarrus County. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing them continued success and happiness.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Babette Huitt and Linda Brown for their recognition by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

RECOGNIZING FBI SPECIAL AGENT BRENDAN J. O'LEARY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the service of newly retired FBI Special Agent (SA) Brendan J. O'Leary. SA O'Leary dedicated 22 years of his life to the FBI and served his country with distinction. Brendan was born and raised in Chicago and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his law degree from the John Marshall—UIC School of Law. Prior to joining the FBI, Brendan served honorably as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Cook County

State's Attorney's office prosecuting criminal cases. After being selected into the FBI, SA O'Leary spent most of his career in the Chicago Field office investigating and overseeing public corruption cases.

In 1999, SA O'Leary began his FBI career in the Las Vegas Division where he quickly established himself as a competent and hard-working agent. He was immediately assigned to a significant public corruption investigation in which business owners were bribing elected county commissioners and other public officials in return for official acts intended to hamper investigations of their businesses. The case was named "Operation G-Sting" and it ended up being the largest and most comprehensive public corruption case in the history of Nevada. In 2004, after a successful assignment in Las Vegas, SA O'Leary transferred to the Chicago Division and was assigned to a public corruption squad, where he used his experience to address the systemic corruption in the City of Chicago, Cook County, and the State of Illinois.

In 2012, SA O'Leary became the Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) for WC-2. As the SSA, he oversaw a number of high-profile public corruption investigations. These investigations included cases involving members of the U.S. Congress, the Illinois State Legislature, the Chicago City Council, and other local politicians. Over the last two years, he was the acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge over the White-Collar Branch, and not only oversaw several cases involving complex financial crimes, health care fraud, and money laundering investigations, but also very significant ongoing public corruption investigations. Throughout all of this, SA O'Leary continued to take an active role in cases, utilizing his experience and insight. He advocated on behalf of agents and programs and represented the FBI in a professional and intelligent manner when speaking to community groups or at school events. SA O'Leary not only had a passion for the public corruption program, but always followed the path of righteousness when fighting for the citizens of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America. Agent O'Leary established a reputation for his relentless pursuit of justice and holding elected officials and government employees accountable under the rule of law.

Throughout the course of his 22 years, SA O'Leary was a reliable and steady leader who set a standard for excellence. Brendan J. O'Leary's professional accomplishments were achieved with the loving support of his wonderful wife Chris and their four beautiful daughters.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS THOMAS G. SAYLOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT FOR HIS EARNING THE JUDGE ROBERT E. DAUER AWARD FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the outstanding leadership and judicial excellence of Chief Justice Emeritus Thomas G. Saylor of the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court, for his earning the prestigious Judge Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Excellence on behalf of Amen Corner.

Amen Corner is an organization designed to foster relationships amongst people from all walks of life and honor those who have devoted their lives and careers to improving our communities, and serving Pittsburgh since 1870. Amen Corner has a long tradition of honoring members of the Judiciary and Bar Association of Allegheny County and the Commonwealth.

Chief Justice Emeritus Saylor graduated from the University of Virginia in 1969, followed by his graduation from Columbia Law School in 1972, before he began his career in general practice and prosecutor with Somerset County. He later earned a Master of Laws from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2004. His decades of service and tireless work in support of law and the Commonwealth also earned him honorary degrees from the Widener University School of Law and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Prior to his election as a justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Chief Justice Saylor served as the First Assistant District Attorney with Somerset County before being named the Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Protection. He then served as the First Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth, preceding his election to the Pennsylvania Superior Court in 1993.

Chief Justice Saylor served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1997, prior to being named Chief Justice of the Court in January 2015. Throughout his time on the Court, he has written more than 400 main opinions and demonstrated the collaborative and effective leadership of an independent judiciary.

For Chief Justice Emeritus Thomas G. Saylor's decades of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America, I am honored to recognize his achievements and contributions, and congratulate him on earning the Judge Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Leadership and Excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday December 1, 2021, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on three roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 389, passage of H.R. 2685; I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 390, passage of H.R. 4045; and I would have voted "Yes" on roll call 391, passage of H.R. 4055.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DAVE FOSTER

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)

Dave Foster who is retiring as the superintendent of the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and the Andrew Johnson National Cemetery in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Before joining the National Park Service in 2009, he served twenty-one years in the United States Marine Corps with deployments to Kuwait, Iraq, and the Horn of Africa in support of the global war on terrorism. While in the military, he held leadership assignments at the company and battalion levels and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dave began his National Park Service career as a subject-to-furlough maintenance worker at the Blue Ridge Parkway and has since served as a maintenance worker, utility systems operator, maintenance supervisor and facility manager on the Parkway. In 2014, he was selected by his peers to receive the class leadership award upon graduation from the Facility Manager Leaders Program. He attributes his success to the professional and dedicated teams he has worked with both at the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Andrew Johnson Historical Site. He said, "as a veteran, I am especially humbled by the privilege of overseeing one of the final resting places for our nation's heroes."

Born in western North Carolina, Dave holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He and his wife Terri reside in Bedford, VA, and they have two children: Autumn and Brian.

Madam Speaker, Dave Foster, has served our country faithfully, first as a Marine across the world and later as an exemplary employee and leader in our National Park Service. I thank him for his service and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement in January of 2022.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF HARTFORD CITY

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Hartford City as it celebrates its centennial anniversary.

Since receiving its charter in 1920, the Rotary Club of Hartford City has been serving Hartford City, Blackford County, and greater Indiana through time, hard work, and resources.

While its 100th year celebration was delayed by the pandemic, the club continued to place "Service Above Self" over the last year and half. Local organizations like this club have been the backbone of our society through this trial allowing America to weather this storm together.

I thank the Rotary Club of Hartford City for continuing to "serve best".

Again, my congratulations to the Rotary Club of Hartford City. Hoosiers are grateful for its kindness and generosity over the last century, and for centuries to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF PASTOR BYRON JONES

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Byron (Boonie) Jones of First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City, Texas, on his retirement. During his thirty-five years of service, Byron has been a stalwart of the community, always putting others' needs before his own.

Byron first joined the Ministry in 1979 at Eastside Baptist Church in Rusk, Texas and served on staff for three years before joining as Youth Minister at First Baptist Church, Gresham. In 1985, the First Baptist Church Gun Barrel City was fortunate to have Byron join as Pastor. When Byron first came to Gun Barrel City, the church was meeting in a city council meeting room until they were able to build a house of worship. Now, the First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City, Texas, is one of the largest churches in Henderson County.

After 35 years of service, Pastor Byron Jones more than deserves a peaceful retirement, and I wish him the best.

I commend Pastor Byron Jones for his dedication to serving the people of Texas, and I know the First Baptist Church in Gun Barrel City will be sad to see him go.

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST LUCAS SCHMITZ'S SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. MICHELLE FISCHBACH

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Retired Specialist Lucas Schmitz who sustained severe injuries while heroically serving the United States as part of the Minnesota Army National Guard.

Specialist Schmitz has spent his life serving others. In 2005, Schmitz was deployed to Iraq with the Minnesota Army National Guard as an Infantryman with the Second Combined Arms Battalion of the 34th Infantry Division. On July 25, 2006, the vehicle that Specialist Schmitz's was riding in hit an IED, forcing them to vacate it. While running to the next vehicle, Specialist Schmitz was injured by stepping on a second IED and tragically lost his right leg.

Upon his medical discharge from the Minnesota Army National Guard, Schmitz moved back to his hometown of Perham, Minnesota where he now lives with his wife, Tina, and three children. He has continued with his commitment to helping others by teaching special education at Perham Public Schools. Surrounded by the support of his family and community, Schmitz will receive a new home from the organization Homes For Our Troops that is specifically designed to accommodate the needs resulting from his injuries.

I am eternally grateful for Specialist Schmitz's dedication to our Nation, and the sacrifices the men and women in the military make every day as they risk their lives to keep us safe. On behalf of Minnesota and the

United States House of Representatives, I thank him for his service.

**PLUM HOLLOW COUNTRY CLUB
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the historic Plum Hollow Country Club which has been a staple in the Metro Detroit community as one of the premier country clubs in the Midwest since 1921, and is now celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Plum Hollow Country Club has been known to have a world-class golf course, playing host to several national events and tournaments including its very first PGA Championship in 1947. For a century, Plum Hollow Country Club has worked tirelessly to provide an inclusive environment for members of all skill levels to enjoy a great golf experience.

Plum Hollow Country Club continuously works to offer a variety of member options to provide a comprehensive and diverse club for networking and more. Plum Hollow also provides a strong community service element through its well-known Caddie Program that allows for younger generations to grow and learn in the game of golf.

Plum Hollow Country Club is indeed an integral part of the Southfield community, a place that noticeably touched the lives of each member over the last 100 years in concrete ways and will continue to do so for years to come.

On this momentous occasion, I wish to proclaim Plum Hollow Country Club as an American Landmark Site of Distinction. On behalf of the United States of America, I salute them for their many years of faithful service and celebrating 100 years.

**SAFEGUARD TRIBAL OBJECTS OF
PATRIMONY ACT OF 2021**

SPEECH OF

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 2930, the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act, which I co-sponsored, especially as it ensures we fully include Native Hawaiians in all aspects of cultural heritage repatriation.

The STOP Act reauthorizes and makes important improvements to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to protect the cultural patrimony of our Indigenous communities, including Native Hawaiians, the indigenous peoples of our country who originate in Hawaii. This bipartisan effort, spearheaded by Chair TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ and Ranking Member DON YOUNG of our House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples, on which I also serve, will assist our efforts to ensure the survival of Native artifacts for generations to come.

I also wish to memorialize for the record our committee discussions assuring that Native

Hawaiians are directly involved in all cultural heritage repatriation processes mandated by Congress under NAGPRA, including full and direct presence on the NAGPRA Review Committee.

Religious practices of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians are an integral part of their culture, tradition and heritage. They also serve as a basis of Native identity and value systems. Congress has established a long-standing policy under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978 (Pub. L. No. 95-341) and other legislation (25 U.S.C. § 1996) to protect and preserve the inherent right of freedom to believe, express and exercise the traditional religions of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Under NAGPRA, a review committee that consists of seven members is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and tasked with several responsibilities, including consultation with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, working with the Secretary to develop regulations to carry out NAGPRA and making recommendations regarding future care of repatriated cultural items. At least two of these members must be traditional Indian religious leaders. The use of "traditional Indian religious leader" in NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3006) is consistent with the policy described in AIRFA (42 U.S.C. § 1996) and includes and should continue to include all traditional Native American religious leaders, including Native Hawaiians, as defined by the term "Native American" found at 25 U.S.C. § 3001.

Ensuring the eligibility of any American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian traditional religious leader to be nominated to serve on the NAGPRA Review Committee is critical to full implementation of the letter and spirit of NAGPRA and the preservation and safe return of our precious indigenous cultural heritage.

Mahalo.

**HONORING THE LANSING CHAPTER
OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Lansing Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Originally chartered with just 17 members on December 3, 1896, the organization now lists 135 women actively committed to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing a better future for our nation's children through education.

Throughout its existence, the DAR ladies—as they affectionately call themselves—have supported civic works throughout the Greater Lansing area. In 2007, the Lansing DAR chapter supported WKAR in the making of the award-winning documentary, "The War: Michigan Voices," a local companion to the landmark Ken Burns series.

They often present flags to new American citizens and deliver copies of the Pledge of Allegiance to local schools. Service is an important common thread among the Lansing DAR

ladies, with many of them serving or having served our country in the armed forces. In addition, they recognize a top cadet each year from the Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC programs at Michigan State University, as well as the local U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

The Lansing chapter has itself been recognized for its work in the community—in 2000, it won Michigan Outstanding Chapter Regent at the state level and was awarded National Outstanding School Chair at the DAR's national meeting, the Continental Congress, in 2006.

Today, after more than a century of uplifting each other and the Michiganders who call Lansing home, the Chapter continues to support community service, good citizenship, scholarship, veterans assistance, literacy, and so much more. In support of Wreaths Across America, you can consistently find Lansing Chapter members laying wreaths at veterans' graves, furthering their mission of "Remember, Teach, and Honor."

Madam Speaker, the Lansing Chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution has been remembering, teaching, and honoring for 125 years. It's my great privilege today to celebrate them by submitting these words to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that future generations—those in the 125 years to come—may learn about their dedicated service to others.

**HONORING NANCY PARRA-QUINLAN AS ARIZONA'S 2022 TEACHER
OF THE YEAR**

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Mrs. Nancy Parra-Quinlan for being named the 2022 Arizona Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Educational Foundation. Mrs. Parra-Quinlan, a 7th and 8th grade teacher at Kino Junior High in the Mesa Public Schools district, has inspired her students over her 27-year career to reach for the stars and create a better and brighter future for our state.

School year after school year, Mrs. Parra-Quinlan has distinguished herself as a uniquely gifted and hardworking educator. She has revolutionized STEM education in the Mesa Public School District and has selflessly served our community both inside and outside of the classroom. Her lessons expose her students to valuable real-world skills in a rapidly evolving technology industry throughout Arizona. Mrs. Parra-Quinlan has sponsored and directed incredible programs like the STEM Institute for Manufacturing and Innovation, and Mesa Public School's Aerospace Academy. Through it all, she finds time to volunteer with the Civil Air Patrol as a statewide Assistant Director of Aerospace Education and with the 305th Squadron at Falcon Field in Mesa as the Aerospace Education Office.

Mrs. Parra-Quinlan is an exemplary advocate for girls, students of color, and all students who are underrepresented in STEM, and is helping create a more diverse and equitable future for Arizona. By innovating and expanding the kinds of courses and activities offered at Mesa Public Schools, she opens new

doors of opportunity for her students every day—even before they begin high school. She plans to spend a year of service as an Arizona Teacher of the Year continuing her mission of getting more of our students involved in STEM and making the field more inclusive and representative of our ever diverse and vibrant community.

I am beyond proud to honor Mrs. Parra-Quinlan for her remarkable service and astounding legacy at Kino Junior High School. Mrs. Parra-Quinlan cares deeply about her work, students, coworkers, and our state. She chose to become a teacher to inspire the next generation and change the lives of her students—and we are all grateful for her work as a teacher, role model, and mentor. I wish her and her students the very best as she continues to innovate, inspire, and shape a promising future for the STEM field, and the state of Arizona.

HONORING JOHN KARRAS AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the co-founder of RAGBRAI John Karras as Iowan of the Week. RAGBRAI is the world's oldest, largest, and longest recreational bicycling tour event, and it is a beloved Iowa tradition. John, who was a feature writer for the Des Moines Register, took his first ride across Iowa with some friends in 1973. They chronicled their journey, and that trip sparked the inspiration for what is now known as RAGBRAI—an acronym for the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

John died on November 10, 2021, but the bicycle ride he helped create will continue in Iowa in 2022 and for many more years. RAGBRAI attracts 15,000 people to Iowa every summer, and allows visitors to see the state's beautiful cities, towns, counties, and countryside while riding their bikes an average of 468 miles between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

RAGBRAI generates more than \$364.8 million annually for the State of Iowa. The week-long event also brings in nearly \$25 million in direct spending, which means towns that are lucky enough to have RAGBRAI ride through see upwards of \$3 million a day in tourism spending. That money means so much to the Iowa towns that host RAGBRAI each year, and to the vendors that help support the bicycle ride.

The ride does more than raise money for our great state. It brings bicyclists from all over Iowa, the nation, and the world together to share their love of their favorite sport and pastime. It has created friendly rivalries between news organizations as they compete to see who can eat pies the fastest, and good laughs for everyone as the bicyclists have come up with some memorably humorous team names throughout the years.

I've had the pleasure of riding RAGBRAI and can honestly say there's no experience quite like it. I loved spending time in rural areas along the route, meeting Iowans and out-of-state riders to hear their stories, and the

physical challenge of a cross-state ride. You have to push yourself through the unpredictable weather of an Iowa summer and the hilly landscape, but you're rewarded with seeing and experiencing the state's beauty from a unique perspective. RAGBRAI is a great way to connect with family, friends, and strangers alike while making memories that last a lifetime. John leaves a lasting legacy through the creation of this iconic event.

John certainly didn't know what RAGBRAI would grow into when he took his first bicycle ride across the state, but I am so thankful he went out anyway and tried something new. Iowa summers would not be the same without this phenomenal tradition and John will be missed by everyone who knows and loves RAGBRAI. It is my pleasure to honor John Karras as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MIRIAM KELLER SIEFKEN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of Miriam Keller Siefken. Born on December 2, 1921, Mrs. Siefken grew up in Abington, Pennsylvania and was a graduate of Abington High School. She then raised her three children, Barbara, Edward and Larry with her late husband, Edward A. Siefken. Edward was a United States Army Veteran and served in the 9th Armored Division and the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion. He also served at the Battle of the Bulge and Remagen Bridge and attained the rank of Sergeant. Together they raised a wonderful family. She is a proud grandmother of four as well as a great grandmother of three.

Today, our community is celebrating Mrs. Siefken's birthday at Neshaminy Manor. We wish her well in the upcoming year and for many years to come. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing a Happy Birthday to Mrs. Siefken and a profound thank you for her contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. LARRY J. MILLER'S RETIREMENT FROM
PEOPLESBANK UPON HIS 50
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Larry J. Miller's retirement upon his 50 years of dedication and service to PeoplesBank, a Codorus Valley Company and its community. On December 31, 2021, Mr. Miller will retire from the Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc. Board of Directors, the parent company of PeoplesBank.

On March 1, 1971, Larry joined PeoplesBank (then known as Peoples Bank of Glen Rock) as a management trainee. He was the youngest person to serve as a bank president in Pennsylvania when he became President of the bank at age 30 in 1981. He served

in that role until 2016. In addition, he has served as director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc. from 1986 to October 1, 2021. His 50 years of service to PeoplesBank, the community and the banking industry has been nothing short of remarkable.

When Larry Miller was hired, the bank had three branch locations and managed \$23 million in assets. During his tenure, the bank's assets grew to over \$2 billion. He led PeoplesBank's growth to become the largest bank with headquarters in York County. As CEO, he led the opening of 25, the relocation of four, the combining of one and the closure of three locations. In addition, he oversaw the purchase of two insurance companies, the creation of the mortgage and trust divisions, the development of corporate and administrative centers and the acquisition of four branch banks in Maryland. Fourteen limited-service facilities were also opened throughout his tenure.

His dedication to and impact on York County is evident through his active involvement in the community, as he serves on various non-profit boards of directors in leadership capacities. Throughout his tenure, he has served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the United Way of York County, the York County Economic Development Corporation, YorkCounts, the Cultural Alliance of York County, and Wellspan Heath System.

Larry has been honored for his achievements and contributions through several recognition awards, including the York County Economic Alliance's Business Achievement Award, the Southern School District Foundation's distinguished Leader Award, the 2021 Distinguished Humanitarian Award Honoree by Penn-Mar Human Services, and his induction into the Central Penn Business Hall of Fame.

I am proud to honor Mr. Larry J. Miller and recognize his important contributions to our communities throughout his five decades of leadership in York County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish him God's many blessings as he embarks upon his next adventure.

REMEMBERING FLOYD NESSE, A
LIFELONG ADVOCATE FOR NEW
JERSEY'S DISABILITY COMMUNITY

HON. MIKE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Floyd Nesse for his lifelong service to individuals with disabilities in NJ-11 and beyond.

Mr. Nesse organized efforts throughout New Jersey to reduce barriers and broaden protections for people with disabilities. He was particularly committed to expanding access to fulfilling and accommodating employment opportunities. He brought the concerns of the disability community to the attention of the federal government, traveling down here to our nation's capital to advocate for legislation to improve the quality of life for those with disabilities.

Mr. Nesse was deeply admired by his peers and was known for working both

empathetically and effectively. He was recognized for his service in 2019 and was awarded the Unsung Hero Award from Inroads to Opportunities and the Larry Barker Spirit of State Use Award from the State Use Programs Association.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Nesse served as the Executive Director of the Edison Sheltered Workshop, the President and CEO of the Center for Vocational Rehabilitation, and most recently as the Vice President of Government Affairs for ACCSES New Jersey.

Beyond his advocacy, Mr. Nesse was a caring husband, father, and grandfather, finding great joy in spending time with his family. He was also a man of deep faith, and on Sundays, you could find him with a guitar in hand leading the worship team at his local congregation.

Floyd Nesse passed away on October 19, 2021. His legacy will live on in his family and in the lives of all he served. I am grateful for all Mr. Nesse did to ensure we live in more inclusive communities. He will be dearly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed one vote on December 1, 2021.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 390.

HONORING SYDNEY NOEL BURKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious young lady, Sydney Noel Burks.

Sydney is a Sophomore at Hinds Community College-Utica Campus majoring in Chemistry/Pre-Pharmacy. She was a May 2020 graduate of Park Place Christian Academy (PPCA), where she graduated as a Highest Honor graduate with a 4.0 GPA. During her time at PPCA, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and served as Secretary of the Beta Club.

Sydney also believes in giving back to the community and helping those who are less fortunate. Her service and leadership have not only given her experiences she will cherish for a lifetime but has also enabled her to become an advocate for others and to promote issues that are of importance. Some of the community service events she was involved in during high school and continue to be involved includes the following:

We Will Go—Organized community closet and assisted the neighbors with bagging groceries and clothing and picked up trash and debris around the city;

Stewpot—Assisted with packing and serving lunches;

Feed the Need—Worked as a team member to pack and bag food to later be shipped to those who are food insecure;

Feed the Hungry—Talked to, prayed with, and assisted with serving lunch to those who were hungry in Poindexter Park;

Operation Christmas Child (Shoebbox Processing Center in Texas)—Worked with a team to pack shoeboxes and ensure that the items in the shoeboxes met the safety requirements to be shipped to the children who needed them; and

The Little Lighthouse—Worked with special needs children by assisting teachers with primary lessons, feeding the children lunch, and supervising recess. Also assisted with creating 'Thank You' cards for their 5K race.

During Sydney's tenure at Hinds Community College-Utica Campus, she has maintained a cumulative 4.0 grade point average, and has been named a President's Scholar. She is currently a member of the Yearbook and Robotics Clubs. Sydney is a STEM student and is a member of the Louis Stokes Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation. In addition, Sydney is a Mississippi INBRE (Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) Scholar. Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) is a network of colleges and universities, designed to build a biomedical research infrastructure in Mississippi. The mission is to reach out to Mississippians in order to improve health throughout the state and to engage talented researchers and students in biomedical research projects that will increase the state's research competitiveness as well as impact the health of citizens of Mississippi.

As an INBRE scholar, she had the opportunity to be an intern with My Brother's Keeper. She presented the outcomes of her work entitled, "Potential Mistrust of the COVID-19 Vaccine Among African-Americans in Mississippi," during the Mississippi Health Disparities Annual Conference 2021 in Biloxi, MS. Also, she is the Mississippi-Louisiana Vice-President of Phi Theta Kappa International College Honor Society. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) recognizes the academic achievement of college students and provides opportunities for its members to grow as scholars and leaders.

Recently, Sydney was named as one of the Historically Black College and University Scholars.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sydney Noel Burks for the outstanding work and accomplishments she has made thus far.

HONORING OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR PAUL NEWTON

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina Senator Paul Newton for his recognition as Outstanding Ambassador of the Year by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Outstanding Ambassador of the Year is presented by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau to an individual who represents Cabarrus County by providing exceptional service to visitors. Working in coordina-

tion with the North Carolina Travel Industry Association, Senator Newton's leadership effectuated the inclusion of a specific provision in House Bill 196 that makes tourism development authorities in North Carolina eligible for the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This quick and impactful response to the economic struggles brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic has effectively reduced layoffs and allowed businesses in the hospitality and tourism industries to remain economically stable so they may continue providing services to visitors and all members of their communities.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Senator Newton for his exemplary service to the tourism and hospitality industries in Cabarrus County and North Carolina as a whole. It is an honor and a privilege to serve and represent the people of Cabarrus County by his side. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Senator Paul Newton as the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau Outstanding Ambassador of the Year Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to address the needs of his constituency.

HONORING DARIN JOHNS

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the family of Darin Johns, who was tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Darin Johns was the beloved band director for Andrews High School. In the weeks since the accident, we have seen an outpouring of testimonies about Mr. Johns from former students, friends, colleagues, and other band directors across the entire state of Texas.

As I learn more about the life that Mr. Johns led, I am continually encouraged by the quality of service that he gave to his community and the quantity of people whose lives he touched.

Mr. Johns was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith, loved his wife Karen and family and friends deeply, and invested in his natural talent and deep love of music. He was a gifted musician who could play almost any instrument he touched. In his free time, he played in a Christian band and directed the church praise band as an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johns' deepest passion was encouraging the younger generations. For over 30 years, he taught others to love music as a high school band director. Over his impressive tenure, Mr. Johns led three different high school marching bands to the State Marching Contest. He lent all his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

Andrews ISD and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of Mr. Johns.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews and Mr. Johns' family.

RECOGNIZING BONNY CLARK ON
BEING NAMED A SAGAMORE OF
THE WABASH

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Bonny Clark of Pendleton, Indiana, on being named a Sagamore of the Wabash. The Sagamore of the Wabash is one of the highest civilian honors the Governor of Indiana can bestow upon citizens. Bonny is the most recent recipient of this prestigious award.

Bonny has been a selfless servant to the people of central Indiana and has had an indelible and personal impact on countless Hoosiers. Receiving this high honor is only a small reward for the great amount she has done for her neighbors and community. Bonny is an inspiration to others to serve, sacrifice, and get involved in meaningful ways at the local level.

I join Governor Holcomb and our fellow Hoosiers in congratulating Bonny Clark on this prestigious recognition.

**GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN GLOBAL TRADE**

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the companies ECOJOHN and Leather Brothers, recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Global Trade.

This award recognizes companies that have experienced success in international markets

and hold high standards of exporting excellence.

ECOJOHN is a manufacturing company from North Little Rock, specializing in wastewater management solutions.

Leather Brothers are third-generation leather workers from Conway who manufacture high quality pet products.

Both of these companies overcame adversity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to succeed in a global market.

I am proud of our local companies, their success, and their impact on our global markets.

**LEE ELDER: GROUNDBREAKING
GOLFER, MAKING A FAIR WAY
ON THE FAIRWAYS**

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, throughout my years in Congress, I have found it is not often that someone is as impactful or influential in breaking the color barrier in a sport or changing the culture of country clubs as the person for whom I stand today. I am honored to rise to recognize someone who found a more fair way on the fairways of professional golf; from Pensacola, Florida to Johannesburg, South Africa all the way to Augusta National and many courses in between, this groundbreaking golfer recently passed away. This incredible ambassador for the game was a gentleman both on the links and in real life, Mr. Lee Elder.

With 16 professional tour wins, including his breakthrough at the Monsanto Open in Pensacola in 1974, Lee Elder was the first African American to win a PGA Tour event. Mr. Elder

was, however, a champion in more ways than one. He was a Black man born in the Jim Crow South who taught himself how to play golf on segregated courses. Working as a caddy he surmounted the hardships of being orphaned at a young age. In his early golfing days in the United Golf Association, Lee gained prominence for his skill and approach to the game.

Much like Jackie Robinson in Major League Baseball, Mr. Elder who chose to stand against the stain of racism, had to endure many indignities. He broke through on the PGA Tour in 1968 as a 34-year-old golfer. From changing clothes in parking lots because Black people were not allowed in the clubhouse to getting death threats for playing in the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, he overcame obstacles. He went to South Africa during the height of apartheid. He protested PGA rules allowing golfers to play at Sun City, Bophutswana, an outpost for segregation. He spoke out against country clubs which still excluded Black players as late as 1990. Mr. Elder helped Black golfers for whom he created Summer Youth Development Programs. All these acts define a champion of civil rights.

I stand today, Madam Speaker, for Lee Elder, not only for his dedication to the game of golf but also for his outstanding commitment in paving the way for people of color to pursue their passions in both their studies and their sports. Using his fame and fortune to establish a foundation to help Black students and the United Negro College Fund is also an important part of his legacy. Standing on the shoulders of such an athlete shows us what we all know in our hearts to be true: without the likes of Lee Elder, there might not be a Tiger Woods nor entry into Country Clubs. Mr. Elder's efforts yielded a fairer way on all fairways across this land.